

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - January 22, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam today announced the arrest in San Diego of OMAR ABDI MOHAMED, the President of the Western Somali Relief Agency, and the unsealing of a two-count indictment charging him with making a false statement in a naturalization application. According to the indictment on April 11, 2000, the defendant submitted an application to become a United States citizen. The indictment alleges that during his May 9, 2002 naturalization interview he falsely told immigration officials that the Western Somali Relief Agency never received funds, was an entity in name only, and lacked sufficient funds to send two boxes of blankets to Somalia. The indictment alleges that these statements were false in that between December 1998 and February 2001, the Western Somali Relief Agency received \$351,036 dollars from the Global Relief Foundation.

The Global Relief Foundation is a Bridgeview, Illinois based charity. On December 14, 2001, the United States Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Asset Control issued an order freezing the assets of

the Foundation. On October 18, 2002, the Office of Foreign Assets Control designated the Global Relief Foundation a Specially Designated Global Terrorist.

OMAR ABDI MOHAMED is scheduled to be arraigned on the indictment on January 23, 2004 at 10:30 a.m. before United States Magistrate Judge Louisa S. Porter.

DEFENDANT

Omar Abdi Mohamed

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Number of Counts: Two

Violations: Title 18, U.S.C. §1546(a) - False Statements in Connection with Immigration Application
Maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and/or a \$250,000 fine.

Title 18, U.S.C. § 1015(a) - False Statements in Matter Relating to Naturalization.
Maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and/or a \$250,000 fine.

AGENCY

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security
Federal Bureau of Investigation

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.